

MINUTES

Flood Plain Management Subcommittee
of the Water Resources Coordinating Council
(WRCC Established under Iowa Code Chapter 466B)

July 13, 2009
10 AM
Rebuild Iowa Office, Conference Room 2
Wallace Building
502 E. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319

Attendees (* indicates telephonic participation)

University of Iowa – Iowa Flood Center: *Larry Weber **
Iowa State University – Leopold Center: *Jeri Neal, alternate*
University of Northern Iowa – Center for Energy and Environmental Education:
*Kamyar Enshayan **
Homeland Security: *Tom Oswald*
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: *Jerry Skalak*
IDOT: *Scott Marler and alternate Dave Claman*
NRCS: *Rich Sims and alternate Marty Adkins*
IDNR: *Bill Ehm and alternate Sharon Tahtinen*
IDALS: *Chuck Gipp*
IDED: *Jessica Montana*
RIO: *Ken Tow and alternate Susan Judkins*
USGS: *Kaylene Carney, alternate **

1. Organizational Details - Subcommittee Structure
 - A. The names of Chuck Gipp and Bill Ehm were proposed as subcommittee co-chairs. By unanimous consent, they were elected and agreed to serve.
 - B. Because the subcommittee will be working within a tight timeframe to address flood plain management recommendations required by HF756, it may not be possible to arrange meetings that work for everyone's schedule. Meetings will be held at the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO).
 - C. Public input will be important. All meetings of the subcommittee will be posted following the open meeting format. That process was followed for this organizational meeting.
 - D. A web presence, including existing reports that will serve as a resource, will be maintained on the RIO web site.
2. Review subcommittee tasks outlined in HF756
 - A. Review HF756 – Susan Judkins, RIO
 - i. Legislation requests recommendations for both policy and funding
 - ii. Legislation requires consultation with hydrological and land use experts, city and county representatives, drainage and levee districts, agricultural interests, soil and water conservation districts, and other urban and regional planning experts. Invitations to attend the

organizational meeting were extended to several of these identified groups, and others will be identified for future meetings.

iii. Legislation requires seven areas of consideration outlined in 2(B).

B. Four work groups were identified to work on the seven components of recommendations required by HF756. The work groups include:

1. Flood plain management and regulation
 2. Lowland focus: Wetland protection, restoration and construction; and conservation easements and other land management
 3. Upland Focus: Perennial ground cover and other agricultural conservation practices; and permanent or temporary water retention structures
 4. Promulgation and implementation of statewide storm water management standards; and pervious pavement, bioswales, and other urban conservation practices
- Subcommittee members may volunteer for a work group. The co-chairs will appoint a chair for each work group, and co-chairs will ensure participation from other needed stakeholders
 - Strong emphasis on education/outreach component
 - DNR is working on a marketing campaign
 - University of Iowa is working on an educational campaign regarding flooding as well
 - Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission urged education in their recommendations
 - Levee safety might be another component to add to this mix

C. Review Agency Resources to Address Tasks

- i. Resources will be added to the RIO web site.
- ii. Items reviewed include DNR issue review completed in February 2009; Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission Recommendations; 2007 Watershed Quality Planning Task Force Report; Leopold Center brochure "Lessons Learned from the Floods of 2008"
- iii. RIO Smart Growth Green Paper
- iv. Rapid Watershed Assessment, Rich Sims, NRCS (handout)
 1. Focuses on HUC8;
 2. five hydrological units currently being conducted;
 3. gives one a snapshot in time, including conditions and resources in land use and what is needed for future
- v. Marty Adkins from the NRCS described how his organization and DNR are working together to conduct watershed planning, including focusing on nutrient assessment, water quality index, flood plain mapping/assessment, soil mapping to identify flood plain areas that merit further study and investment

3. RIO Smart Growth Green Paper

A. reviewed by Aaron Todd from RIO's planning staff

- B. Agencies will be contacted independently but response from Flood Plain Management Subcommittee members is encouraged
 - C. Green Paper is based on RIAC, number 8 suggestion (120-day report)
 - D. Suggestions from subcommittee
 - i. Use Green Paper to showcase what other groups, including WRCC, are doing
 - E. Green Paper available electronically at http://www.rio.iowa.gov/community_recovery/doc/GREEN_PAPER_Draft_07.14.09.pdf.
4. Future Meeting Schedule and Potential Locations
- A. A tentative timeline was identified for the work of the WRCC subcommittee, including updating the full WRCC at meetings in early September and early November, with approval sought from the WRCC at the November meeting for the recommendations that are due 11/15/09.
 - B. Public input will be invited at subcommittee meetings, and at approximately six public meetings to be held in various regions of the state in late September.
 - C. Meetings will take place same room, roughly same time of day for consistency;
 - D. All meetings subject to Open Meetings Law; RIO will ensure compliance
 - E. Suggestions for work groups
 - i. Use already-existing reports, resources, materials...no need to reinvent the wheel, including, but not limited to:
 - ii. RIAC 120-Day Report: Bill Ehm urges that the work groups start here, and Chuck Gipp agrees since the work of the consultant hired to draft the 120-Day report can't be duplicated for purposes of the Flood Plain Management Subcommittee's work
 - iii. RIO Green Paper (draft): It was agreed that the work groups will consider using the paper as a starting point for their recommendations or at least considering how it complements their work
 - iv. Comprehensive Planning (10 states adopted already)
 - v. Tentative Deadline – September 15th
 - F. Water Resources Coordinating Council Meeting Timing
 - i. September 2009 – Suggest open agenda and to hear/review suggestions by the Flood Plain Management Subcommittee before public meetings later in the month. Suggest second week in September, but before the 15th; set the meeting for the afternoon and have the Subcommittee meet before
 - ii. Late October/Early November 2009 – Open agenda and to hear/review suggestions by the Flood Plain Management Subcommittee after public comment and prior to submitting final recommendations to the General Assembly and Governor, due 11/15/09
 - G. Public Forums September 15 – October 1
 - i. Anticipate six locations
 - 1. Des Moines
 - 2. Cedar Rapids
 - 3. Elkader

4. Atlantic
 5. Sioux City
 6. Burlington
5. Public input
 - A. Information on work of the Flood Plain Management Subcommittee and Work Groups, as well as a means of obtaining public feedback, will be made available on the RIO web site <http://www.rio.iowa.gov>
 - B. RIO will create and distribute press releases as needed
 - C. Public input will be invited before the conclusion of each meeting.
 - i. Public input invited today – no response
 - D. The subcommittee will consider developing metrics to track the effectiveness of recommendations, possibly 1-, 2-, 5-years out
 6. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM